

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
U.S. Non-Provisional Application Serial No. 09/582,950

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following paragraph at the beginning of the specification, after the title page:

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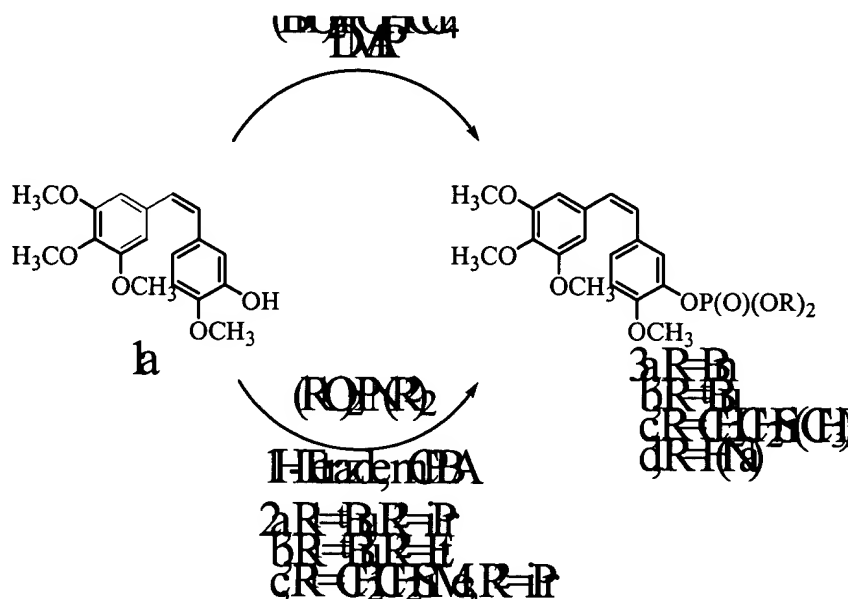
This application is the U.S. national phase of PCT/US99/00419 filed January 8, 1999, which claims priority to U.S. provisional applications nos. 60/071,070 filed January 9, 1998 and 60/111,531 filed December 9, 1999.

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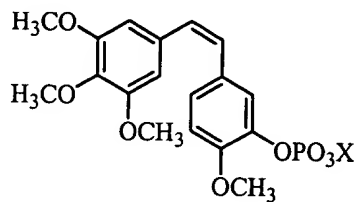
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Please insert the figure below in place of the figure shown on top of page 7 of the originally filed specification. This amendment corrects a typographical error in the chemical formula for the phosphoramidites used in the reaction (which appears directly above the bottom arrow), from " $(R^1O)_2PN^2_2$ " to " $(R^1O)_2PN(R^2)_2$ ".



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Please insert the figure below in place of the figure shown on the bottom of page 8 of the originally filed specification, correcting the spelling of "divavalent" to "divalent".



where X = H(Z) (monovalent)

or

X = Z (divalent)

<b>5a</b>	Z = Ca <sup>2+</sup>	<b>g</b>	Z = imidazole	<b>m</b>	Z = adenosine
<b>b</b>	Z = Cs <sup>2+</sup>	<b>h</b>	Z = morpholine	<b>n</b>	Z = cinchonine
<b>c</b>	Z = Li <sup>+</sup>	<b>i</b>	Z = piperazine	<b>o</b>	Z = glucosamine
<b>d</b>	Z = Mg <sup>2+</sup>	<b>j</b>	Z = piperidine	<b>p</b>	Z = quinine
<b>e</b>	Z = Mn <sup>2+</sup>	<b>k</b>	Z = pyrazole	<b>q</b>	Z = quinidine
<b>f</b>	Z = Zn <sup>2+</sup>	<b>l</b>	Z = pyridine	<b>r</b>	Z = tetracycline
				<b>s</b>	Z = verapamil